GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:143
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2002
UNP ON AIDS AND WHO REPORT ON AIDS
ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the actual number of AIDS cases in India at present;

(b) whether the latest joint report of the United Nations Programme(UNP) on AIDS and World Health Orgnisation (WHO) has revealed only 29007 cases of AIDS in India which is far below the actual number of 3.86 million estimated cases; and

(c) if so, the reasons for such wide variations?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR)

(a)to(c): A statement is laid on the table of the Lok Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 143 FOR 13.3.2002

As per the reports received from all States and Union Territories in the country, 32,191 cumulative AIDS cases were reported to National AIDS Control Organisation as on 31st January, 2002.

World Health Organisation, Regional Office for South-East Asia region, has released a fact-sheet about HIV/AIDS in the South-East Asia region, on World AIDS Day, i.e. 1st December, 2001.The report shows 29,007 reported AIDS cases and 3.86 million HIV infections in the country. These figures tally with the officials figure of reported AIDS cases as on 31st October, 2001 and HIV estimates of 3.86 million HIV infections as on October, 2000. The latest estimate of HIV infections for October, 2001 is 3.97 million.

The reasons for such wide variation between reported AIDS cases and estimated HIV infections is as follows:

The number 29,007 are reported AIDS cases, while 3.86 million is an estimated number of HIV infections derived from Nationwide HIV Sentinel Surveillance round conducted during August to October, 2000.It takes about 5 to 7 years for an HIV infected person to turn into a full-blown AIDS case. Besides, there is gross under-reporting of AIDS cases on account of its chronicity, discrimination and social stigma associated with this disease.